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THE FOREST SERVICE

History Line

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To: History Coordinators
Forest Service Personnel

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History Office Now in AM.--The nationwide Forest Service reorganization wave caught up with the History Office last month when it was shifted from the Information & Education Division to the Administrative Management Division, Programs & Operations Branch. Previously, the Smokey Bear Program went with Cooperative Forest Fire Control, and Visitor Information Service to Recreation. Our address and room number remain the same.

History Book Progress.--Dr. Harold Steen of Forest History Society has begun writing the centennial history of the Forest Service, after a year and a half of studying both published and unpublished forestry source materials at collections around the country, including the Society, Denver Conservation Library, university and other public libraries, National Agricultural Library, National and Regional Archives and Records Centers, and Library of Congress. (See July 1973 issue of History Line.) He has submitted a brief revised outline, including 16 tentative chapter titles, which has been reviewed and critiqued at his request by the History Steering Committee and prominent retirees. "Pete" Steen emphasizes that he plans "to relate the history of the Forest Service to contemporary events, and therefore will discuss many matters outside the Forest Service."

New History Society Project.--The Society has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to finance a bibliography of published sources, of North American forest history. These volumes will refine, enlarge and update already published material. The Society will receive extra funds if it can raise additional matching money, and is asking its members to contribute to this special fund. The Society is also seeking more members. Membership includes subscription to the quarterly magazine, Forest History, with fascinating scholarly articles about the early days of forestry in the U.S.A. and Canada. The Forest Service History Office is enclosing with each copy of this issue of History Line an illustrated brochure, Preserving the History of North America's Forests, which tells the story of the Society and its aims and accomplishments. The Society maintains a depository of historical documents for several forest organizations and cooperates with many regional depositories around the country. It continues to conduct oral history interviews with prominent forestry leaders, including many with former Forest Service people, and conducts research and does writing on forest history. It also conduct training seminars to assist persons involved in forestry history work and maintains contact with scholars in forest history.

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EXPERIMENT STATION

Westward the Tree and The Government Lends a Hand are the titles of the first two chapters of Dr. Wilmon H. Droze's new book on the history of the Shelterbelt project on the Great Plains. A history professor at Texas Woman's University, he is writing it as a cooperative project with the History Office and has just sent us the drafts of these two chapters. They tell how settlers who were used to wooded lands spontaneously began the tree-planting effort which then grew tremendously with the help of horticultural societies, the press, State and Federal agencies and new laws. The writing of the book is scheduled to be finished this summer. It will be the first book ready for general circulation to be contracted by the History Office.

Forest Service in Alaska.--This history, compiled by Dr. Lawrence Rakestraw of Michigan Technological University, is now under revision by the author, with the new version promised this summer. The principal Forest Service advisor on this project is Dr. Raymond Taylor, retired, who headed research in Alaska for many years. This also is a fascinating story.

Oral History Interviews.--The oral history taped interviews with Former Chief Richard McArdle were completed late in March by Elwood Maunder, executive director of the Forest History Society. The exhaustive background preparations made by Dr. McArdle, which matched those of the Society, were the most complete made by an interviewee to date in this series, Mr. Maunder reports. The book resulting from these interviews will be extremely valuable, covering some 40 years of Forest Service growth and development, as seen and influenced by an acutely perceptive and able scientist and manager. . .Two important oral history interviews, already on tape for a number of years but never edited and transcribed for lack of funds, will be completed this year for the Forest Service by the Regional Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library at the University of California in Berkeley, under a cooperative agreement. They are with Edward I. Kotok and Leon F. Kneipp, former Assistant Chiefs both now deceased. Kneipp was Assistant Chief for Lands and Planning under four Chiefs (Stuart, Silcox, Clapp and Watts). Kotok was Assistant Chief under Clapp and Watts, first for State & Private Forestry, then for Research, and previously headed the Experiment Station in Berkeley. Other shorter tapes and written materials on hand concerning Raymond Marsh, Earle Clapp, Paul Roberts, Evan Kelley, and L.W. Swift will also be put into final shape, as well as a study of the old Eddy Tree Breeding Station (now the Institute of Forest Genetics) at Placerville, Calif. Marsh was Assistant Chief under Silcox, Clapp and Watts. Clapp, who was responsible for greatly strengthening Forest Service research, was Acting Chief (in effect, Chief) in the early 1940s; he was previously Associate Chief under Silcox. Clapp took this post again when Watts succeeded him (Clapp) as Chief, the only ex-Chief to do this. (Clapp was denied the title of Chief by President Franklin Roosevelt because of Clapp's fierce opposition to Harold Ickes' persistent attempts to move the Forest Service to his Interior Department.) Roberts headed the Shelterbelt Project on the Plains. Kelley was Washington Office Inspector (1920-25), Eastern Regional Forester (1925-28) and then Northern Regional Forester (1929-44). Swift headed the wildlife program. . .In addition, the History Office contemplates a number of oral history interviews with F.S. leaders who have had broad responsibilities, both interdisciplinary and geographical. Regions 2 and 4, and Southeastern Area, State & Private Forestry,

have also made much progress with tape recorded interviews of retirees.

New Photo History.--Another new project will be a Photographic History of the Forest Service. Plans call for this to be done by retiree Bill Bergoffen, our longtime talented and versatile information man in the Washington Office. We all feel that he is the best qualified person around to do this unique and demanding job. This picture book will coincide with the written history to mark the centennial of American forestry in 1976. A complementary effort will be revision and reissue, with illustrations, of the small booklet, Highlights in the History of Forest Conservation, by the History Office. Another centennial project is a special exhibit being prepared in co-operation with the Smithsonian Institute, for display in the new History and Technology building on the Capitol Mall. The question of a national Forest Service history museum is still being mulled over, but field offices from Regional Offices down to ranger districts are encouraged to set up local displays or "mini-museums" of papers and artifacts to call attention to historical events and the coming forestry centennial, by a recent memo distributed from the Washington Office Recreation Division, at the suggestion of George Vitas, Visitor Information Service Chief. . .A movie on the history of forestry in America is also under preparation by the WO I&E audio-visual staff. Other projects which would coincide with the Centennial are: (1) Character profiles of former Chiefs, including Hough and Fernow; and (2) Booklet of excerpts from the 1876 report on forestry by Hough. . .Three continuing projects are the outline survey of Forest Service Research history being compiled by Dr. Herbert Storey (retired Associate Deputy Chief for Research); the cataloguing via computer print-out of old official photos by Lee Prater (now approaching the year 1932); and the history of the eastern National Forests including the Weeks Law and the Clarke-McNary Act, underway by Jerry Ogden of the USDA History Branch. .

Contributions From the Field.--Active and retired Forest Service people interested in their agency's history have sent in a number of interesting items. The most recent is a copy of the Carpathians, a roster and historical sketch of the Tenth Engineers (Forestry), American Expeditionary Force in France, 1917-19. It was lent to us for copying by Robert Deering of San Francisco, retired R-5 Operations Chief, who was a member. The sketch was written in 1940 by John D. Guthrie, James A. White, Henry B. Steer and Harry T. Whitlock. The group used to meet in Washington, D.C., on Armistice Day. The name comes from the British ship the group sailed on. The Regiment also included Henry S. Graves, William B. Greeley, R.Y. Stuart, E.M. Granger, Allen S. Peck, and Arthur C. Ringland (Adjutant). The Regiment was recruited by the Forest Service at the request of the War Department, with the help of State Foresters, lumbermen and lumber associations, to set up and operate sawmills in France to provide wood products for the war. The Tenth Regiment was merged with the 20th Regiment (Forestry) just before the war ended, encompassing more than 30,000 men. They were the first forestry regiments in the U.S. Army, and all were volunteers. By war's end they were producing two million board feet of lumber and round products a day. . .Mr Deering also sent us a historic photo of those attending the first nationwide Forest Service forest fire conference, November 14-27, 1921 at Mather Field, Calif., near Sacramento. Pictured are Chief Greeley, all six western District (now called Regional) Foresters, and many of their staff--Fred Morrell (1), Allen Peck (2), Frank Pooler (3), R.H. Rutledge (4), Paul

Redington (5), and George Cecil (6) — plus men from the Eastern District and Washington, nearly 50 in all. Mr. Deering is much interested in forestry history and has written a summary of the highlights of R-5, 1920-48; and the early part of history of the Datil N.F. in R-3 (1910-13) including a cattle roundup and count, for Supervisor Lee Kirby who plans to update it. . .Frank Carroll, R-3 Fire Management, sent in one of several red cloth notices marking boundaries of areas of forest reserves closed to sheep grazing, issued 1905-06, which he found in the old Panchuela Ranger Station, Santa Fe N.F., in 1962. The Station was the former Pecos N.F. headquarters. The old Form 985 was used in the West up to about 1930. Mr Carroll is interested in helping to set up a national fire history museum. He once noticed a collection of old hand-forged pulaskis in the Thompson Falls, Mont., Ranger Station on the Lolo N.F. but said when he went back to find them they had been thrown out. It is to be hoped that this will not often happen now with such historic relics. In this connection, Senator Mansfield has expressed interest in preserving the old Alta Ranger Station on the Bitterroot N.F., perhaps the oldest one still standing. It was built as a log cabin with one window, one door and a sod roof by two rangers in 1899 when the forest reserves were under the General Land Office. The cabin, unused for years, and now on private land, has been nominated for National Historic Site status, but is plagued by vandalism. The Hamilton Lions Club purchased it in 1952 and gave it to the Forest Service. . .Al Mullen, R-2 I&E Chief, has sent in a negative and 7/8 size print of the October 23, 1908 Supplement to the Ouray, Colo., Plaindealer, a paper still being published as a weekly. The 1908 page features a blistering attack on the Republican Party, trusts, the Forest Service, and Gifford Pinchot, for "robbing" ranchers, farmers, miners and other settlers of their rights and lands by so-called arbitrary actions and regulations. The original paper is framed and exhibited in the office of the Ouray Ranger District on the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison N.F. . .From R-6, an early 1911 montage of Oregon newspaper reports tragedies in the terrible forest fires of 1910 in the Northwest. Also, from Nella Hulet, history coordinator in R-6, a collection of the annual volumes of Timber Lines, the newsletters of the 30-Year Club in Portland, 1948-64 (except 1950, 1955, and 1962), plus the 1971 volume. . .Dave Johnson of WO Research sent us an extract from the Congressional Record of Feb. 4, 1960, in which the 50th anniversary, accomplishments and promise of the Forest Products Laboratory are noted at length by Senator Proxmire and Representatives Kastenmeier and Laird of Wisconsin, Wier of Minnesota, Magnuson of Washington, Ostertag of New York, McIntire and Coffin of Maine, and Fisher of Texas. . .Wes White, retired Superior N.F. Supervisor, has furnished the History Office with the following books from his collection: Hi Stranger!, Tree & Game, and Planning for America's Wildlands, all by Arthur Carhart; Minnesota Lands by Sam Dana; Pine Logs and Politics by Richard Current; Fading Trails: The Story of Endangered American Wildlife by Daniel Beard; Cinders and Timber by Fred Harrison; Burning an Empire by Stewart Holbrook; Caesars of Wilderness by Grace LeNute; The Unfortified Boundary by McElroy and Riggs; The Singing Wilderness by Sigurd Olson; and The Blazed Trail and The Riverman, both by Stewart White. . .
We hear that R. Newell Searle, University of Minnesota graduate student, recently finished the first part (though 1940) of his History of the Superior N.F.; publication will await completion of the project. . .